THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Formation of Central Trade Service (CTS) was notified in 1977 and its initial constitution was made in 1979 by induction of eligible Departmental Officers in the service. Direct recruitment to the service took place in December 1986 for the first time. In July 1985 a high level Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Commerce to consider the question of future of the Export Promotion (EP) Cadre of the Ministry. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee to merge the EP Cadre with the CTS, the Government decided to undertake the cadre review of the CTS only when a clear picture emerged after the proposed changes. Orders were issued in December 1988 merging EP Cadre with the CTS. As a result of these changes, the total sanctioned strength of the service was raised from 171 to 218.

Cadre review proposals were thereafter prepared in the Ministry in consultation with CCI&E and are being processed in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training. In the meantime, there have been substantial changes in the trade policy which necessitated restructuring of the role of CCI&E. In view of these developments the cadre review proposals are being recast.

Press Conference on Uruguay Round of Gatt negotiations and Patent Laws.

1751. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 381 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1991 and state:

(a) whether a Press Conference was taken by the Members of Parliament and eminent citizens of the country on September 19, 1991 on Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations and Patent Laws;

(b) what are the issues stated in the Press Release by the Members of Parliament; and

(c) what is Government's view-point on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statement issued to the Press raises issues pertaining to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, particularly in the areas of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Trade-Related Investment Measures and Services. According to the statement, the industrialised countries are seeking major changes in the economic laws and policies of developing countries in respect of the agricultural, industrial and services sectors as well as an onerous patent regime. The statement expresses concerns regarding proposals for the removal of trade barriers in goods and services. The statement urges Government not to compromise India's economic sovereignty on these issues or agree to any changes in economic laws and policies under pressure.

Government's view-point on these issues is reflected in India's stand in the Uruguay Round negotiations. On Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), India's stand has been that sufficient flexibility must be provided in any multilateral agreement to take into account the developmental and technological needs and public policy objectives of developing countries. In the case of India, this is particularly relevant in the area of patents on account of our concerns regarding food security and access to medicines and health care at affordable prices.

On Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), India has taken the stand that investment measures are used to harmonise the interests of foreign investors with public policy objectives and priorities and the ability of Government to employ such measures should not be curbed. Our approach in the Uruguay Round has, therefore, been only to permit interpretation and application of existing GATT rules to terms and not to allow any new disciplines to be developed.

In respect of trade in Services, India has made a conditional offer of market access in selected services sectors. The access will be subject to the applicable Indian laws, regulations and guidelines. The offer is conditional upon the entire outcome of the negotiations on Services being acceptable to India and upon an adequate response from other participants on requests made by India for market access in sectors of its interests, especially in respect of movement of personnel.

In trade in agriculture, it has been Government's stand that India will not accept any commitments in respect of governmental assistance to agriculture, which are not consistent with India's present stage of development.

Government have clearly stated that India will not accept any changes in its national economic laws and policies which are not in the national interest.

Representative of SC/ST and minorities in the selection committee/ Boards

1752. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 726 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the names of the bodies under his Ministry which have not implemented the instructions, so far, and the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps are being taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to information available, all the offices under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce, are following the instructions dated 16-8-91 while making selection to Group 'C' and Group 'D' Posts

India's Plans to provide Labour Intensive services in USA

1753. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approached the Government of USA to grant India market access to export labour-intensive services, including temporary movement of both high qualified professional and other skilled personnel, under the Multilateral General Agreement on Trade in services; and

(b) if so, the details of the request made and the reaction of the Government of USA thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In the Uruguay Round negotiations on trade in services, it is envisaged that participants will negotiate among themselves on market access for various services sectors of interest to them. Accordingly, India has tabled a request to other participants for market access in professional services, Computer Related Services, Other Business Services, Health Related and Social Services, Tourism, Travel and Leisure Services,